

REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the indication that Claims 13, 14, 17-21, 23, and 26 are allowed or allowable.

Further, Claims 28 - 30 are merely objected to as depending upon rejected base Claims 22 and 27.

Only Claims 16, 22, 25, and 27 are rejected.

In response, Applicants respectfully submit herewith a verified translation of the priority application upon which the present application is based, thereby perfecting claim to entitlement to the priority date of February 28, 2003, and removing the newly cited reference.

(Applicants confirm that, as indicated in the Declaration, only German Patent Application document No. 103 09 159.9 is being relied upon for priority. German Patent Application No. 103 49 677.7 can be disregarded.)

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance.

Office Action

Turning to the Office Action in greater detail, the paragraphing of the Examiner is adopted.

Paragraphs 1 - 3 (Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. 102)

Claims 16, 22, 25, and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Winter et al. in DE 102 29 744 A1, published January 15, 2004.

U.S. APPLICATION NO. 10/790,387
AMENDMENT B

ATTY DOCK: 3926.071

The Examiner advises that the Applicants cannot rely upon the foreign priority papers to overcome this rejection because a (verified) translation of said papers has not been made of record in accordance with 37 CFR 1.55.

Applicants' arguments with respect to claims of record have been considered, but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

In response to the above, Applicants submit herewith a verified translation of the priority document, establishing entitlement to the priority date of February 28, 2003, and removing Winter et al as a reference.

Support in the priority document for the claims as filed in the present application can be found as follows:

<u>Claims of present application</u>	<u>Priority Document</u>
12	1
13	2
14	4
15	5
16	6
17	7
18	8
19	9
20	10
21	11
22	2
23	4

24	5
25	6
26	7
27	8
28	9
29	10
30	11

Support for subsequent amendments to the claims has been explained concurrently with the presentation of the amendments.

Accordingly, entitlement to the priority date of February 28, 2003 having been established for all claims, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Paragraph 4

Claims 28-30 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants appreciate this indication, but rely on the removal of the cited reference for allowability of base claims 22 and 27, and, thus also these dependent claims.

Paragraph 5

Claims 13, 14, 17-21, 23, and 26 are allowed.

U.S. APPLICATION NO. 10/790,387
AMENDMENT B

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Paragraph 6 - Second Priority Application

The Examiner states that the declaration claims priority only based upon German Patent Application document No. 103 09 159.9, which was received on June 7, 2004.

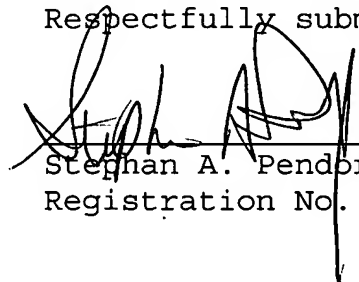
However, a certified copy of German Patent Application No. 103 49 677.7 was filed on December 21, 2004.

The Examiner advises that if Applicant desires priority based upon this second application, a new declaration will be required, and the Examiner requires clarification.

In response, Applicants submit that this second document is incidental and not necessary to the entitlement of the claims of the present application to the priority date of February 28, 2003. Thus, the Examiner is requested to simply disregard this second priority document.

Accordingly, early issuance of the Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner have any further questions or comments, he is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the indicated telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,



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Dated: July 5, 2005

U.S. APPLICATION NO. 10/790,387
AMENDMENT B



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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING AND AUTHORIZATION TO CHARGE

I hereby certify that the foregoing **AMENDMENT B** for U.S. Application No. 10/790,387 filed March 1, 2004, was deposited in first class U.S. mail, with sufficient postage, addressed to Mail Stop: Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on **July 5, 2005**.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required at any time during the prosecution of this application without specific authorization, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 16-0877.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephan A. Pendorf", written over a horizontal line.

Stephan A. Pendorf